

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminal devices;

a printer whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network;

a monitoring period determining system that determines a monitoring period with respect to operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

wherein the monitoring period is defined as a time period after the operational parameters are set by the first user,

wherein the printer executes a print job in accordance with the operational parameters that are set by the first user,

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification made by the first user or the second user if the monitoring period has expired; and

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the request for modification is made by the first user during the monitoring period.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring period determining system includes a time period inputting system, the monitoring period being determined based on the time period input through said time period inputting system.

4. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein an end of the monitoring period is defined as a point of time.

5. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring period determining system includes a time inputting system, an end of the monitoring period being determined based on the point of time which is input through said time inputting system.

6. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the second user, indicating that a current time is within the monitoring period.

7. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the first user, informing that the operational parameters have been modified by the second user within the monitoring period.

8. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further including a permission requesting system that requests the first user for permission to modify the operational parameters.

9. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further including: an effective period determining system that determines whether an effective period designated by the terminal device has expired; and a recovering system that sets the operational parameters to previously set values after expiration of the effective period.

10. (Original) The network system according to claim 1, further comprising a postponed period checking system that checks whether a postponed period for postponing the modification of the operational parameters has expired, the postponed period being instructed by the terminal device, said modification controlling system enabling the modification of the operational parameters after expiration of the postponed period.

11. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, further including a setting management device which is connected with said terminal device and a plurality of printers through the network, said setting management device being provided with a setting input system that is used to input modification settings of the operational parameters for said plurality of printers, the modification settings input through said setting input system being set in said plurality of printers.

12. (Original) The network system according to claim 11, wherein one of said plurality of terminal devices includes said setting management device.

13. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 11, wherein said setting management device includes a printer selecting system that selects at least one of the plurality of printers as a target device whose operational parameters are to be modified, the modification settings input through said setting input system being effected as the

modification settings of said at least one of the printers selected by said printer selecting system.

14. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal device includes an instruction system that transmits instructions to the printer using a predetermined communication protocol; and wherein said printer includes a job executing system that executes a job which is instructed by said instruction system and transmitted from said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol, the operational parameters including a parameter to be used when said printer communicates with said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol.

15. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, the operational parameters including a parameter related to an output format when said printer prints a print job.

16. (Original) The network system according to claim 15, wherein the parameter related to the output format includes a parameter related to a banner print.

17. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, the operational parameters including a parameter related to a sheet supply when said printer executes a print job.

18. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 17, wherein said printer is capable of using a plurality of types of sheets for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default type of a sheet to be used.

19. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 17, wherein said printer includes a plurality of sheet trays containing sheets to be used for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default tray to be used.

20. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said printer includes an interruption procedure execution system that executes an interruption procedure when a predetermined job is executed, the operational parameters including a parameter that enables/disables execution of the interruption procedure during the predetermined job.

21. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising:

 a plurality of terminal devices;

 a printer whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network;

 a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with operational parameters, including the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer, set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

 a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

 a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding

to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said printer is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

22. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said terminal device includes an instruction system that instructs said printer to execute a job;

wherein said printer includes a job executing system that executes the job instructed by said terminal device,

said number of execution determining system determining the number of executions of the job to be executed by said job executing system.

23. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the second user, indicating that the number of executed operations of said printer is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

24. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein the message output by the modification control system is a message, which is transmitted to the first user, informing that the operational parameters have been modified by the second user before the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

25. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further including a permission requesting system that requests the first user for permission to modify the operational parameters.

26. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further including: an effective period determining system that determines whether an effective period designated by the terminal device has expired; and

a recovering system that sets the operational parameters to previously set values after expiration of the effective period.

27. (Original) The network system according to claim 21, further comprising a postponed period checking system that checks whether a postponed period for postponing the modification of the operational parameters has expired, the postponed period being instructed by the terminal device, said modification controlling system enabling the modification of the operational parameters after expiration of the postponed period.

28. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, further including a setting management device which is connected with said terminal device and a plurality of printers through the network, said setting management device being provided with a setting input system that is used to input modification settings of the operational parameters for said plurality of printers, the modification settings input through said setting input system being set in said plurality of printers.

29. (Original) The network system according to claim 28, wherein one of said plurality of terminal devices includes said setting management device.

30. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 28, wherein said setting management device includes a printer selecting system that selects at least one of the plurality of printers as a target device whose operational parameters are to be modified, the modification settings input through said setting input system being effected as the modification settings for said at least one of the printers selected by said printer selecting system.

31. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said terminal device includes an instruction system that transmits instructions to the printer using a predetermined communication protocol; and

wherein said printer includes a job executing system that executes a job which is instructed by said instruction system and transmitted from said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol,

the operational parameters including a parameter to be used when said printer communicates with said terminal device using the predetermined communication protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, the operational parameters including a parameter related to an output format when said printer executes a print job.

33. (Original) The network system according to claim 32, wherein the parameter related to the output format includes a parameter related to a banner print.

34. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, the operational parameters including a parameter related to a sheet supply when said printer prints a print job.

35. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 34, wherein said printer is capable of using a plurality of types of sheets for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default type of a sheet to be used.

36. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 34, wherein said printer includes a plurality of sheet trays containing sheets to be used for printing, the parameter related to the sheet supply including a default tray to be used.

37. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein said printer includes an interruption procedure execution system that executes an interruption procedure when a predetermined job is executed, the operational parameters including a parameter that enables/disables execution of the interruption procedure during the predetermined job.

38. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1 further comprising:

a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device with which the operational parameters are modified in relationship with modified operational parameters; and

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

39. (Currently Amended) A printer for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said printer being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said printer comprising:

a monitoring period determining system that determines a monitoring period with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if said monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

wherein the monitoring period is defined as a time period after the operational parameters are set by the first user,

wherein the printer executes a print job in accordance with the operational parameters that are set by the first user,

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification made by the first user or the second user if the monitoring period has expired; and

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the request for modification is made by the first user during the monitoring period.

40. (Currently Amended) A printer for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said printer being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said printer comprising:

a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with operational parameters, including the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer, set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said printer is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

41. (Previously Presented) An electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by the plurality of terminal devices through the network, said electronic device comprising:

a modifying system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with a request for modification of the operational parameters requested by a terminal device independent from a processing request;

a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device, with which the operational parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified operational parameters; and

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

42. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a program which controls a computer to function as a printer for a network system having a plurality of

terminal devices, a function of said printer being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a monitoring period determining system that determines a monitoring period with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received during the monitoring period; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if said monitoring system determines that the request for the modification is received after expiration of the monitoring period, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification is received during the monitoring period.

wherein the monitoring period is defined as a time period after the operational parameters are set by the first user,

wherein the printer executes a print job in accordance with the operational parameters that are set by the first user,

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification made by the first user or the second user if the monitoring period has expired; and

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the request for modification is made by the first user during the monitoring period.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a program which controls a computer to function as a printer for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said printer being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a number of execution determining system that determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with operational parameters, including the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer, set by a first user independent from the first user issuing a processing request;

a monitoring system that monitors whether the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system when a request for modification of the operational parameters issued by a second user is received; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if said monitoring system determines that the number of executed operations of said printer exceeds the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system, said modification control system executing at least one of rejecting the request by the second user and outputting a message corresponding to the request by the second user if said monitoring system determines that the number of

executed operations of said printer is equal to or less than the number of times determined by said number of execution determining system.

44. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium that stores a program which controls a computer to function as an electronic device for a network system having a plurality of terminal devices, a function of said electronic device being shared by the plurality of terminal devices, the plurality of terminal devices and said electronic device being communicatively connected through a network, operational parameters of said electronic device being set by the plurality of terminal devices through the network, the program controlling the computer to have functions of:

a modifying system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with a request for modification of the operational parameters requested by a terminal device independent from a processing request;

a message storing system that stores a message input by a user of the terminal device, with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified operational parameters; and

a message outputting system that outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified operational parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified operational parameters.

45. (Currently Amended) A network system having a plurality of terminal devices and a printer whose function is shared by said plurality of terminal devices, said plurality of terminal devices and said printer being communicatively connected through a network, said printer executing print jobs in accordance with operational parameters set to said printer, the operational parameters of said printer being set by users of said plurality of terminal devices through the network, said network system comprising:

a monitoring condition determining system that determines a monitoring condition with respect operational parameters set by a first user;

a monitoring system that monitors whether a request for modification of the operational parameters received from a second user meets the monitoring condition; and

a modification control system that modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the monitoring system determines that the request for the modification meets the monitoring condition, said modification control system executes a predetermined operation if said monitoring system determines that the request for modification does not meet the monitoring ~~condition~~.

wherein the monitoring condition is defined as a time period after the operational parameters are set by the first user,

wherein the printer executes a print job in accordance with the operational parameters that are set by the first user,

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification made by the first user or the second user if the monitoring condition has expired; and

wherein the modification control system modifies the operational parameters in accordance with the request for modification if the request for modification is made by the first user during the monitoring condition.

46. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

47. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 21, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

48. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 38, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores a message input by the first user of the terminal device with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified in relationship with modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified functional parameters and protection parameters.

49. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 39, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

50. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 40, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

51. (Previously Presented) The electronic device according to claim 41, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user of one of the plurality of terminal devices, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores a message input by the user, with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the functional parameters and protection parameters.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 42, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the monitoring period determining system determines the monitoring period with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 43, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters; and

the number of execution determining system determines the number of times of operations to be executed by said printer in accordance with the protection parameters set by the first user.

54. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 44, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by a first user of one of the plurality of terminal devices, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the message storing system stores the message input by the user, with which the functional parameters and protection parameters are modified, in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters; and

the message outputting system outputs the message stored in relationship with the modified functional parameters and protection parameters by said message storing system in response to an output command of a message corresponding to the modified functional parameters and protection parameters.

55. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 45, wherein:

the operational parameters comprise functional parameters and protection parameters, the protection parameters being parameters entered by the first user, independent from a processing request, to control the modification of the functional parameters;

the monitoring condition determining system determines the monitoring condition with respect to the protection parameters set by the first user;

56. (New) The network system according to claim 1, wherein:

the monitoring period is a predetermined period after the operational parameters have been set by the first user.

57. (New) The network system according to claim 56, wherein:

the monitoring period is set by the first user.